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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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15 March 2004

The Honorable Greg Walden
1404 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Greg,

It is with deep regret that I have accepted the resignation of Scott McInnis as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. Under Scott's leadership, the Committee on Resources forged a historic healthy forest initiative. The immediate and long-term effect of this plan makes America safer from the threat of catastrophic wildfires and helps to produce stronger, more vibrant public forests. I thank him for his outstanding service to our Committee and to the Nation.

Of course, with Scott's resignation, I am faced with finding a replacement who can continue his substantial legacy. After careful consideration, I believe that person is you. Effective immediately, I appoint you the new Chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health.

I have based my choice to take the helm of this very active and legislatively vital Subcommittee on six factors: 1) the demonstrated interest and knowledge of the Member in subject matter handled by the Subcommittee; 2) a commitment to attend and conduct field hearings and investigations; 3) the Member's legislative activity within the Committee; 4) an ability to act as an effective communicator on forestry issues; 5) the importance of the issues within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction to the Member's district; and 6) the recommendation of the former Subcommittee Chairman. Given these factors, along with the fact that the second district of Oregon hosts 11 national forests created from the public domain, you are the right person for this Subcommittee chairmanship.

I join the other Members of the Resources Committee in congratulating our newest Subcommittee Chairman. I know that you will continue our Committee's tradition of strong leadership on forestry issues.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
The Honorable Jay Inslee